

13. Is That All There Is? – Evaluating Your Program

The end of the teen summer reading program is not the time to look back and ask “How did we do?” Evaluation is a continuous process and begins early in the planning stages.

When you are developing the structure and format of your program, determining how many books or minutes teens will read, deciding whether to have activities, and other details, you need to ask yourself how you will determine your success. As mentioned before, do not attempt to measure your teen program against your children's program. Using circulation figures and attendance statistics are very useful, but these only measure quantity. Talking with teens throughout the program will provide you with insight about the quality of the program. Talk with other staff who are involved in the program to learn what they have heard from teens as well as their own ideas about the program. As with other recurrent programs, you will learn ways to conduct your teen program more smoothly. Look closely at the guidelines you have set up for the program, the forms you have developed, and the sponsors you have worked with. How can any of these be revised to work more efficiently and successfully for the teens and the library staff? Think outside the box and don't let yourself get bogged down with the rules! Listen openly to teens' suggestions for changes!

In the pages that follow, you will find a survey developed by librarians at the St. Charles City-County Library. Adapt the survey for your own use to learn what the teens liked and didn't like about the summer reading program.

As mentioned throughout the manual, youth participation is really the key to success in young adult services. Ask your most active reading program participants if they would like to plan the program for next summer. Many teen groups plan entire summer reading programs, even developing elaborate games and activities. If they are willing to carry out their plans, work with them. Even if they can only commit to giving you ideas about how to adapt or revise the program, it will result in an even more successful program the next summer.

In addition to looking at the impact the teen summer reading program had on your young adults and your library, the committee and the state library want to know how we did in helping you prepare. Following the teen survey you will find an evaluation to return to the state library at the end of the summer. Please take a few moments to look over the evaluation so you know what statistics and criteria we are asking you to report. We appreciate your help and look forward to your response!

Young Adult Summer Reading Questionnaire

Age_____

School_____

1. How many summers have you participated in the summer reading program?
2. What method of tracking reading do you like best?
 - ☐ Counting number of books read
 - ☐ Counting number of minutes read
 - ☐ Other method:
3. The goals set for completion are
 - ☐ Too hard
 - ☐ Too easy
 - ☐ Just right
4. What prizes did you like best?
 - ☐ Books
 - ☐ Cups
 - ☐ Notepads
 - ☐ Food coupons
 - ☐ Gas coupons
 - ☐ Candy bars and gum
 - ☐ Games
5. What prizes did you like least?
 - ☐ Books
 - ☐ Cups
 - ☐ Notepads
 - ☐ Food coupons
 - ☐ Gas coupons
 - ☐ Candy bars and gum
 - ☐ Games
5. If the library were to host a party for the winners what kind of party would you want to attend?
 - ☐ Movie
 - ☐ Swimming
 - ☐ Pizza
 - ☐ Bowling
 - ☐ DJ/Dance
 - ☐ Other:
 - ☐ I wouldn't come to a library-sponsored party
6. The program lasted 6 weeks. Was this
 - ☐ Too long
 - ☐ Too short
 - ☐ Just right

What is your overall opinion of the summer reading program? The library is looking for new ways to spice up the program and increase participation. Please be honest and include any ideas you have to improve the program. (Feel free to write on the back)

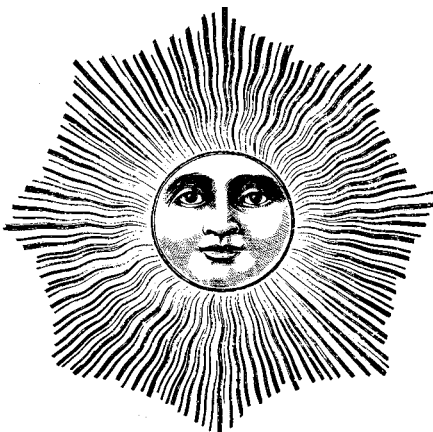
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Would you be interested in helping plan the summer reading program for next year? Please provide contact information below:

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____ Email_____



Please return all completed evaluation forms and order forms by ***August 31, 2000*** to:
Nancee Dahms-Stinson
Missouri State Library, P.O. Box 387, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0387

1. Number of youth registered for the teen summer reading program _____
2. Number of youth that completed your requirements for the program _____
3. Have you had a summer reading program for teens before? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. What are the age ranges of youth allowed to participate in your program? _____
5. Which method did you use for recording teen participation?

☐ Minutes read ☐ Books read ☐ Pages read ☐ Other (please explain)
6. If you designed or implemented programs for the young adults this summer, please describe the most successful one.

7. What types of incentives or prizes did you award?

8. Did you attend one of the 1999 Trade Secrets Workshops presented by the TSRP Committee? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9. Did you use the 2000 state theme, **Book Your Summer**? ☐ Yes ☐ No

10. What parts **Book Your Summer** did you use? (check all that apply)

☐ Theme ☐ Art ☐ Manual ☐ None of them

11. Please rate the quality of the 2000 **Book Your Summer** materials.

Start-Up Kit Materials	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Inferior
Posters					
Bookmarks					
Manual					
Clip Art/Certificates					

12. Which part of the manual did you find most useful?

13. Which part did you find least helpful?

14. What topic(s) did you need that weren't included in the manual?

15. Will you continue to conduct a teen summer reading program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

16. Additional comments, ideas or suggestions?